Protection of Gorkha fort in Uttaranchal

†4071. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having some plan to declare the Gorkha Fort situated atop Sri Naithana Devi Hill under district Almora in Uttaranchal as a protected monument;

(b) if so, by when it will be declared as a protected monument; and

(c) whether Gorkha Fort being declared as a protected monument, Government have any plan to develop Sri Naithana Devi hill as ideal tourist destination?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Central Government to declare Gorkha Fort at Naithana Devi Hill as a protected monument of national importance.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Development of Eco-Tourism in Orissa

4072. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eco-tourism is picking up in Orissa and other States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the cash-strapped Orissa State to develop this sector to improve their economy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There is a great potential of promoting eco-tourism in the country including the State of Orissa. National Tourism Policy lays emphasis on promotion of eco-tourism, Department of Tourism has been providing Central Financial Assistance for development of tourism infrastructure including eco-tourism project in States and Union Territories including Orissa based on project proposals prioritized in consultation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.